

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

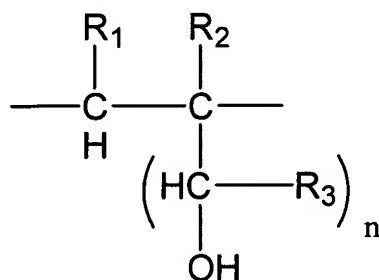
The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.-53. (canceled)

54. (original) A shoe, comprising an upper and a sole, wherein the sole comprises one or more inflatable membranes for containing an inflationary gas, wherein at least one of the membranes comprises a multilayer composite, wherein the composite comprises at least one flexible layer comprising a blend of thermoplastic polyurethane, hydroxyl functional copolymer, and a gel reducing additive,

wherein the hydroxyl-functional copolymer comprises a polymer having 10 mole percent or more of repeating units of structure



wherein n is 0 or 1, R1 and R2 are independently hydrogen, methyl, or ethyl, and R3 is hydrogen or C₁₋₃ alkyl, and

wherein the gel reducing additive is selected from the group consisting of compounds with at least one hydroxyl group, compounds with at least one primary amino group, compounds with at least one secondary amino group, compounds with at least one carboxyl group, and compounds with at least one carboxylic anhydride group.

55. (original) A shoe according to claim 54, wherein the hydroxyl functional copolymer comprises a copolymer of ethylene and vinyl alcohol.

56. (original) A shoe according to claim 54, wherein the composite further comprises at least one layer of ethylene vinyl alcohol copolymer and at least one layer of thermoplastic polyurethane.

57. (original) A shoe according to claim 54, wherein the composite comprises outer layers made of a blend of thermoplastic polyurethane, ethyl vinyl alcohol copolymer, and gel reducing additive, and the inner layers comprise alternating layers of ethylene vinyl alcohol copolymer and thermoplastic polyurethane.

58. (currently amended) A shoe according to claim 54, ~~comprising~~ 57, wherein the composite comprises 10 or more inner layers.

59. (currently amended) A shoe according to claim 54, ~~comprising~~ 57, wherein the composite comprises 30 or more inner layers.

60. (original) A shoe according to claim 55, wherein the molecular weight of the gel reducing additive is less than or equal to 2000.

61. (original) A shoe according to claim 55, wherein the molecular weight of the gel reducing additive is less than or equal to 200.

62. (original) A shoe according to claim 55, wherein the gel reducing additive comprises a compound having two or more hydroxyl groups.

63. (original) A shoe according to claim 55, wherein the gel reducing additive comprises a compound with two or more amino groups.

64. (original) A shoe according to claim 55, wherein the gel reducing additive is selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, glycerol, trimethylolpropane, ditrimethylolpropane, pentaerythritol, ethylenediamine, diethylenetriamine,

triethylenetetramine, polyethylene glycol of molecular weight is less than or equal to 400, propylene glycol, and dipropylene glycol.

65.-73. (canceled)